

COMPUTER SECURITY SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A computer system provides system-wide computer application security using role-based identifiers. The programmer identifies secured functions within a software application using a hierarchical identifier. The hierarchical identifiers are grouped together into privilege sets. The privilege sets and other hierarchical identifiers are grouped together into job functions, which are in turn grouped into larger subsets called user roles. These user roles are stored in a data store. User identifiers are created. Each user identifier is linked to one user role in the data store. A surrogate identifier is created to correspond to each user role and is stored in the data store. The surrogate identifiers are not disclosed to the users. A user is given permission to access secured functions within an application by retrieving a surrogate identifier from the data store, which shares the same user role as the user. Access rights are determined using the surrogate identifier to validate permissions on a security provider.